

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 06758 172142Z
ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6101

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AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 6758

STATE FOR CHAIRMAN YATRON'S OFFICE; USIA FOR IBS, IPS, ILA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (CODEL YATRON)

SUBJECT: YATRON'S AIRPORT DEPARTURE REMARKS - AUGUST 17

1. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: I THANK YOU FOR YOUR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
IN OUR STUDY MISSION'S VISIT TO CHILE.

2. MY COLLEAGUES AND I CAME TO SANTIAGO, IN RECOGNITION OF THE
CULTURAL AND HISTORIC BONDS, BETWEEN THE CHILEAN AND AMERICAN PEOPLES.

I BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE BENEFITED ENORMOUSLY FROM THIS FIRST-HAND LOOK
AT THE CHILEAN REALITY.

3. OUR TALKS WITH PRESIDENT PINOCHET, THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN
RELATIONS AND FINANCE AND OTHER CHILEANS HAVE PROVIDED US
WITH NEW INSIGHTS INTO CHILE, HER PEOPLE AND HER PROBLEMS; INSIGHTS
WHICH ARE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN, THROUGH TRADITIONAL CHANNELS,
IN THE UNITED STATES.

4. THE UNITED STATES, IN MY OPINION, CANNOT AFFORD TO WALK BLINDLY
INTO A NEW ERA OF INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING, COOPERATION, AND
PARTNERSHIP. WE SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE THE RECENT STEPS TAKEN BY
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CHILE AND ITS COURAGEOUS EFFORTS TO BRING ORDER TO ITS ECONOMY.
I TAKE HEART IN THE ANNOUNCED ABOLITION OF DINA. WITH MONUMENTAL
COURAGE, DETERMINATION AND PATRIOTIC FAITH, THE CHILEAN
PEOPLE ARE CLIMBING FROM THE DEPTHS OF DESPAIR. HOWEVER,
THE NEXT SIX MONTHS WILL BE CRITICAL FOR THIS COUNTRY.
THE EYES OF THE WORLD WILL FOCUS ON CHILE.

5. THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION IS FUNDAMENTAL TO U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. AS MEN AND WOMEN OF CONSCIENCE, LIKE THE CHILEAN PEOPLE, WE MUST ALSO SUPPORT THE RIGHT OF EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD, TO THE DIGNITY OF SELF-RESPECT AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING. WHILE I DO NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD IMPOSE THIS VIEW ON OTHER COUNTRIES, WE MUST SEEK TO ENCOURAGE RESPECT FOR HUMAN AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS.

6. I AM ENCOURAGED BY PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S EXPRESSIONS OF PERSONAL CONCERN FOR PEOPLE. THIS COMMITMENT, AND THE COMMITMENT OF THE CHILEAN PEOPLE, TO HUMAN DIGNITY, STRENGTHEN MY HOPE THAT CHILE'S DYNAMIC SPIRIT WILL CONTINUE TO CARRY HER FORWARD.

7. WHILE WE CANNOT SPEAK FOR THE EXECUTIVE TODAY, WE CERTAINLY ARE NOT WITHOUT PORTFOLIO. WE WILL RETURN TO OUR COUNTRY AND SHARE WITH OUR COLLEAGUES IN THE CONGRESS, THE PRESIDENT AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, OUR BROADENED UNDERSTANDING OF CHILE, HER PEOPLE AND HER PROBLEMS.

8. YOU HAVE BEEN MOST FRIENDLY TO US DURING OUR STAY. AND ON BEHALF OF MY COLLEAGUES, I THANK YOU FOR YOUR WARMTH AND HOSPITALITY.

9. FOLLOWING ARE Q'S AND A'S:

10. 1: WHAT DOES THE SENTENCE IN YOUR STATEMENT MEAN EXACTLY WHEN IT POINTS OUT THAT THE CHILEAN PEOPLE ARE EMERGING FROM THE DEPTHS OF DESPAIR? TO WHAT DESPAIR DO YOU REFER?
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11. A: I'M REFERRING TO THE DESPAIR THAT I SEE THAT YOU ARE MAKING PROGRESS WHICH IS MOVING FORWARD BETTER THAN IT HAD BEEN UNDER THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION. OR, I COULD ADD THE LOSS OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS.

12. Q: HOW WAS THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS DISCUSSED, AND WHAT OPINIONS ARE YOU TAKING BACK WITH YOU?

13: A: OF COURSE, I FEEL THAT WE'RE ALL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. WE ARE BASICALLY THE SAME. AND WE CERTAINLY HOPE THAT YOUR COUNTRY WILL BE ENCOURAGED BY THE UNITED STATES. I DON'T FEEL THAT WE CJF IMPOSE OUR WILL UPON YOU, BUT I THINK WE CAN HELP TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION. AND THAT WE CAN ENCOURAGE CHILE TO RETURN TO A FREE AND DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. PERHAPS ONE OF MY COLLEAGUES WOULD LIKE TO ADD SOMETHING TO WHAT I HAVE ALREADY SAID ON THIS MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE.

14. REP BENJAMIN GILMAN: WITH REGARD TO YOUR QUESTION OF HOW ER DISCUSSED HUMAN RIGHTS, WE DISCUSSED IT NOT ONLY WITH THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BUT WE ALSO HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH LABOR

LEADERS AND WITH THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN THE COMMUNITY. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THAT GREAT STRIDES HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE AMOUNT OF PROGRESS, WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT THERE'S A GREAT DEAL OF ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT.

15. Q: WHY DID IT SAY IN THE STATEMENT THAT YOU HANDED OUT THAT THE NEXT SIX MONTHS WILL BE CRUCIAL?

16. A: THE REASON I SAY THE NEXT SIX MONTHS WILL BE CRUCIAL IS BECAUSE WE WANT TO GIVE YOU SOME TIME AND THAT I FEEL THAT THE WORLD WILL BE WATCHING CHILE AND THE PROGRESS SHE IS MAKING AND WE HOPE THAT IN SIX MONTHS WE WILL SEE MORE PROGRESS.

17. AFTER THE PRESS CONFERENCE, REPRESENTATIVE YATRON
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CLARIFIED HIS REMARK ON THE "SIX-MONTH" PERIOD. HE SAID: 6"WHAT I MEANTWY REFERRING TO A SIX-MONTH PERIOD WAS THAT YOU CAN'T MAKE PROGRESS OVERNIGHT. IT WAS AN INDICATION THAT CHILE NEEDS SOME TIME FOR PROGRESS. I WAS CERTAINLY NOT SPECIFYING ANY TIME FRAME."

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